

Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Pipeline Game



By Susan Behery
Western Colorado Area Office

Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Pipeline Game – McKinley County Youth Water & Energy Awareness Days

Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office (WCAO) and the Four Corners Construction Office (FCCO) were invited by the City of Gallup, New Mexico to present at the McKinley County Youth Water & Energy Awareness Days on April 29th and 30th. Reclamation has participated in this event since 2005. The event includes hundreds of students, from grades 4 through 9, from various middle schools in and around Gallup, and was held at JFK Middle School in Gallup, as well as at Red Rocks State Park.

This year, Reclamation presented a new activity based on a major Reclamation project directly related to the student's everyday lives: The Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP). The NGWSP is currently under construction in northwest New Mexico, and when complete, will deliver 37,764 acre-feet of water per year



through approximately 280-miles of pipeline to areas desperately in need of municipal and industrial water, including many of the areas the students live in, or are familiar with.

Reclamation's activity was designed to be a hands-on demonstration of what goes into building a project of this scale and importance, by having each student "build" a pipeline on a large-scale map of the project area. Each section of the pipeline was put together using real PVC pipe and connectors. The students encountered obstacles on the map, such as finding archaeological sites, cultural artifacts, endangered species, and geologic hazards. They also were introduced to other types of obstacles, like permitting requirements and budgetary considerations. Ultimately, the group of students had to work together to design a pipeline that satisfied these requirements, while efficiently connecting the pipeline to the communities that will be serviced.

The goal is to use this new learning tool to help educate the area youth on the NGWSP. In turn, it is anticipated that the middle schoolers who participated in the presentation will take what they learned home and share it with their brothers and sisters, as well as their parents. Thus, the water festival presentation will be an important part of the ongoing public outreach process to help educate the local communities on this important, life-changing project that will bring a clean, sustainable water supply to the area.

Thank you to this year's volunteers: Bernadette Fontenelle (FCCO), David Gates (FCCO), Jason Neal (FCCO), and Susan Behery (WCAO).



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Albuquerque Employees Share Skills with Special Olympians



By Rebecca Onchaga
Albuquerque Area Office

The Special Olympics is a global movement of people creating a world of inclusion where everyone is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability.

Over 4 million athletes from over 170 countries participate in Special Olympics competitions organized into Area Tournaments (one per season), State Tournaments (one for each sport), National Tournaments (once annually), and International Tournaments (every 4 years).

The Albuquerque Area Office is very proud to have two of our very own volunteering some of their free time to such a worthy organization that impacts the lives of millions. Gary Dean, a Supervisor in the Environmental Resource Group at the Albuquerque Area Office, and Shannon Silva, an Administrative Assistant, both volunteer as coaches with the Rio Rancho region of the Special Olympics.



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Shannon has been volunteering for about a year and currently coaches flag football, volleyball, polyhockey (a form of hockey played wearing tennis shoes on a gym floor), and basketball; all team sports. Gary has been volunteering for six years, and for most of that time has been coaching golf in a “unified” situation, where he is paired up as a partner with the Special Olympics athlete. In the past, he has also coached bowling, likewise a unified sport.

Shannon was always interested in coaching sports, and having some family friends with Asperger’s, decided to volunteer with the Special Olympics. She believes that the participation in sports helps teach participants important life skills such as patience, leadership, communication, and learning how to handle frustration.

Shannon’s most challenging experience this year involved coaching a basketball team that was suddenly bumped up a level and was beaten 47 to 4 by halftime, when they stopped taking score, when competing for the first time with a higher ability team. It was very discouraging. Her best experience was while coaching volleyball, in one year they went from not winning any games to being 2nd in the area and first in the state.



“The Special Olympics has been one of the best experiences ever,” Shannon says. “I have always been around people with disabilities and enjoy how caring, appreciative, and enthusiastic they are. My folks love to be challenged.” Shannon is especially proud of how her team provides input into planning practices, suggesting, for example, “Let’s do more cardio.”

Recently, the polyhockey team Shannon coaches competed in the New Mexico State Special Olympics tournament and won the gold medal for the 2014 polyhockey season. They were undefeated. “One of our athletes scored 18 goals in three games,” Shannon said.

Gary has found it challenging to promote safety and enjoyment. In unified sports, he explains, “my game affects their game. I need to make sure I bring my A game for them.” There are also rewarding experiences, such as when a partner of Gary’s made a great shot on the next to last hole of a tournament, and ended up in the silver bracket. Gary and his partners have earned a total of four silver and three bronze medals over the years in State and Regional golf tournaments.

For several years, Gary had an injured shoulder and wasn't able to actually go out on the golf course. During that time, he worked with the "Skills" athletes. Skills’ training is the first place that the athletes go to determine if they are capable of going out on the course to play golf. They work on five areas: pitching, chipping, long and short putting, and driving. They practice with an assigned partner to become proficient in these skills and at the end of the season they are given a chance to show their skills “The greatest thing about Special Olympics is that there are virtually no absentee parents or guardians. Mothers, fathers, and guardians are right there with their athlete(s) and are a great source of support to them” says Gary. “The athletes challenge me to be a better person and I'm very proud to be a part of this great organization.”



It is wonderful to know that our Reclamation colleagues spend their valuable time outside of work participating in such an impressive organization. The Special Olympics can always use more help. If you don't have an athletic talent to contribute like Shannon and Gary, they are always looking for volunteers with various skills for different activities throughout the year. To learn more about Special Olympics and how you might get involved go to <http://www.specialolympics.org/>.

Photos below



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Regional Safety Council guest speaker Mr. Patrick Green
“Safety first” is not good enough

By Matthew Allen
Regional Office

On April 22nd, the Safety Council bi-monthly guest speaker hosted Mr. Patrick Green, Operations Manager for Chevron Pipeline Company. Mr. Green's long track record with integrating safety into the operational culture of his organization made him an ideal presenter to Reclamation's staff. During his presentation, he touched on several key issues that described how and why his company is a leader in safety within a very dangerous industry. Some of the



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topics were specific to the petroleum industry, but there were several themes that were universal that can be integrated into Reclamation's safety culture.

Safety is personal, it isn't a number. When we walk out the front door each day and start our trek to work, we all do so with a reasonable expectation that we'll be returning home at the end of the day. Nobody anticipates going to work and being impacted by a disabling injury or fatality. If we weren't personally involved or aware of an incident we can tend to rationalize it as a number or a probability or something that wouldn't occur at our worksite when we are presented with safety statistics or reports. As a tight-knit bureau, we know that each number on a safety report represents a person with family and friends that hold our same expectation to return them safely home at the end of each workday.



Head, hands, heart. Safety practices that exist as a core value of an organizational culture are cultivated in three distinct phases.

1. **Head:** When we do things because we're told to do so we've adapted our safety culture in our heads. We comply with rules and regulations because we're told to. This can be related as a new employee who complies with safety regulations because their job depends on compliance with safety rules and regulations. However, it could apply to any employee in a new environment, a new office, a new worksite, using a new piece of equipment, or the adoption of new rules and regulations.
2. **Hands:** When we do things because we're supposed to we've adapted our safety culture in our hands. We do things because we know we're supposed to do so. This can be related as an employee who has been on the job for a short period of time who knows the rules and regulations and complies because they know they are supposed to do so. Safety culture at this level, however, typically stops with the individual and does not include proactive steps to correct others who are operating unsafely, nor does it include steps to proactively advance the safety of the organization as a whole.
3. **Heart:** When we do things because we want to and believe in the value of operating safely first, we have adapted safety culture as a core value and it is embedded in the hearts of employees. We operate safely because we believe our primary mission is returning everyone home at the end of the day in as good as – or better – condition as they arrived.

In knowing that safety is personal and that we must embrace a safety culture with our head, hands, and heart, consider these simple questions as you go about the rest of your workday.

1. Where do you personally find yourself in the three categories above? Do you perform tasks safely because you must or because you should? Are you seeking out safer ways to operate and correcting yourself and your co-workers when you see something unsafe?



2. How safe do you believe your team or workgroup is? Are there practices that can be shared or adopted across the region? Are there things that are perhaps unsafe that have been accepted as “just the way we do things around here?”
3. Where do you believe the region or the bureau resides in the three categories above? What are you doing to make it a better and safer place to be?

In the words of Patrick Green, “Practice doesn’t make perfect – perfect practice makes perfect. Doing it wrong and getting faster simply means doing it wrong faster.” Whether you’re a high-scaler, engineer, or copy clerk, your safety and those of our Reclamation family

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Reclamation helps with the 17th Annual Utah Envirothon

Utah Envirothon Hosted High School Students in Emery County



By Stacey Smith
Regional Office

Reclamation Upper Colorado Region Youth Coordinator, Stacey Smith was a judge at the 17th Annual Utah Envirothon competition. On April 25-26, 2014 several high school students, advisors and chaperones from around the state gathered to test their skills and knowledge about natural resources conservation.



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The Envirothon is a natural resource competition for high school students. Preparing for this year long competition is done after school with the help of dedicated team advisors. The five-member team is tested on their knowledge of the state's natural resources – soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and a current environmental issue. This year's current issue was sustainable agriculture and its role in healthy communities. Students visit five field stations where they receive additional instruction before taking a written and hands-on problem solving test that is administered without their advisor assistance. These test questions are developed by the instructors to determine their natural resources learning comprehension and understanding.

The oral presentation event is where the teams show their preparedness, professionalism, teamwork and problem-solving skills. Each team is given 20 minutes to present their solution to the problem to a panel of judges from various agencies. Teams are allowed to use various maps, drawings, gestures and presentation style. No electronic devices are permitted. Judges use various categories to determine if all requirements and procedures were followed with a possible perfect score of 200 points. These scores are added to the field test scores to determine the winner of the competition.

The Sky View FFA team, made up of five students from Sky View High School in Smithfield, was the top scoring team and won a trip to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis this October. In addition, the Utah State University College of Natural Resources presented each member of the winning team a \$1000 Quinney Foundation Scholarship. The second place team was from Mountain Crest High School in Hyrum. The third place team was Soldier Hollow Charter School, near Midway in Wasatch County. Also, winners were selected from each of the five hands-on stations and the oral presentations.



1st place team Sky View High School - Olivia Agnillon, Anna Hullinger, Alex Clements, Hailey Hansen, and Kaycee Goodrich and Team Advisor Dave Erickson

The Utah Envirothon is sponsored by the Utah Association of Conservation Districts, with broad support from many statewide organizations, agencies and businesses. Other major financial contributors were Utah Division of Water Quality, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Utah FFA Foundation, Campbell Scientific, and Utah Farm Bureau. Technical experts and volunteers are provided by the major federal and state conservation organizations. While Reclamation only provided technical assistance and an



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oral presentation judge, it was a great experience to be involved in the 17 year old event that helps promote the wellness of our precious natural resources. Get outside and get involved..

For more information about the Utah Envirothon, go to www.utahenvirothon.org.

Photos below



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Diesel Spill at Deer Creek Reservoir



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By Peter Crookston
Provo Area Office

On April 24 the culinary water supply was temporarily shut down at Deer Creek after a truck full of turkeys crashed into the reservoir near the dam. Of the 720 turkeys in board only 120 survived the crash. The truck driver was released from the hospital that afternoon with minor injuries.

Approximately 100 gallons of diesel fuel spilled into the reservoir. Envirocare recovered 16 to 20 gallons of diesel the first couple of days and continues to monitor the site. As the water level recedes over the summer months further clean up may be necessary.

Water quality will continue to be monitored by Utah Division of Water Quality and Wasatch County Health department to ensure that it is safe for culinary use. Samples were taken in the reservoir and in the Provo River below the dam. So far only trace amounts of diesel have been detected. The outlet is 90 feet below the surface and diesel fuel floats so it is unlikely water quality will be an issue.

Read more at [PETA asks for sign to honor turkeys killed in crash](http://www.ksl.com/index.php?sid=29716198&nid=148&title=peta-asks-for-sign-to-honor-turkeys-killed-in-crash)

<http://www.ksl.com/index.php?sid=29716198&nid=148&title=peta-asks-for-sign-to-honor-turkeys-killed-in-crash>



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Oral History Spotlight



The UC Regional Library has a collection of 110 oral history interviews conducted by Historians, with various Reclamation employees throughout the years. The oral histories capture candid “in their own voice” memories of employees and their experiences working for Reclamation. The oral histories preserve information about Reclamation that would not normally appear in Reclamation’s official records. Contents of the oral histories range from the humorous to reflective of the situation at the time, and all are informative!

Oral History Interview Maryanne C. Bach

Ms. Bach joined the Department of Interior as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, here she would transition quickly before arriving at Reclamation as the Director of the Office of Management and Organizational Analysis in 1993. She retired from the Committee on Science and Technology in 2007. What follows are excerpts from Ms. Bach’s oral history book:

Had Hoped to Be the First State Ecologist of Iowa

No, actually, it was a non-traditional study on how one finds a job. I was, having been trained in the ecological field, I had, I would say, I had been very much interested in pursuing an opportunity with the State of Iowa to become their first state ecologist. There



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is an effort underway with the Nature Conservancy—it's called the Stewardship Program—where they have worked individually with each state on establishing and maintaining a database on species diversity, and inventory of lands throughout the state, particularly lands that have not been developed, have not gone into agriculture, but are considered more natural. It's a systematic, nationwide effort, which actually, many of the concepts have been taken by Secretary [Bruce] Babbitt and have been the foundation of the National Biological Survey, the new Agency in Interior. At the time, however, it was the Nature Conservancy that maintained the largest nationwide database on animals and plant species.

Supercomputers Were Young, but the Data Sets Developing Required That Kind of Data Integration

Look at what was happening in computational science: It was a very **young** field at the time, but the amount of data that the scientists began realizing they needed to integrate could not be handled on the computers that we had available to the research community. The kinds of data and the immensity of the data sets are what we now think of in terms of supercomputers. At the time, 1981, the only arena in science that had access to supercomputers was in the Department of Energy, and they were predominantly in the secured areas.

Supercomputers Were Kept "Inside the Fence"

Supercomputers; high-speed computers; parallel processing; large, massive amounts of data integration; were being worked on at Los Alamos in New Mexico—to some extent, Lawrence-Livermore. They were at facilities that were called "inside the fence." They were defense-oriented; they were what some of our defense systems were built upon; they were not as readily available and used in the non-defense arenas. So at the same time that the scientists from the terrestrial end, the atmospheric fields were trying to come together to integrate their information, to understand what is happening as this particulate matter is coming down through the atmosphere, what happens when it hits the soil?

“ . . . I got to see the world of Reclamation from across all five Regions as I was accustomed to seeing it when I was at the Department or at the White House Science Office. . . . ”

And Wayne and Austin and I had a great time. Really, really a vibrant time, and I got to see the world of Reclamation from across all five Regions as I was accustomed to seeing it when I was at the Department or at the White House Science Office. So you see it across all of the Agencies and the White House Science Office. In the Department of the Interior you see it across all of the Bureaus, and Department of the Interior is a microcosm because of how truly diverse its Bureaus missions are. It was a mini-cabinet for me. And when I was in the White House Science Office I sat through many a cabinet meeting and so I just have that love of the various perspectives from which an issue can be viewed.



Applied for a Regional Director's Position

And the time was no more than two years in the policy office, and then at the time Eluid was the Commissioner and I was asked if I would consider putting in for the Regional Director position. And at the time one of the early people that approached me, there were several, but one of them was John Keys. And he was signaling that he was going to be leaving, and so, he said "I would really appreciate it if you would consider—it would be lovely if you were my successor in Boise." And at the time I put my name in, it really wasn't going to be clear whether it was Boise or Billings. And then just timing it turned out that it was Billings.

To read the full interview of [Maryanne C. Bach](#) click here, or if you prefer a hard copy contact [Chantel Bouchard](#), Regional Office Library Coordinator.

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Take Charge of Your Retirement



By [Tammy Flanagan](#) National Institute of Transition Planning

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In 1985, I began a new position at FBI headquarters in Washington as a retirement counselor.



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This position laid the groundwork and provided the training for my future career as a retirement specialist that I continue today. My official title was Employee Relations Specialist-Employee Benefits, and my duties included communicating laws, policies and regulations regarding retirement matters to FBI employees and providing innovative planning and techniques to help guide them as they planned for retirement.

This week I received the following email that made me reflect on the role of a retirement counselor:

I plan to retire Jan. 3, 2015. The general question is where do I go to discuss retirement issues prior to putting in my retirement papers? I've heard that someone would be assigned as a counselor once they receive my paper work at HR, but I would like some info prior to submitting the papers.

Here's my response:

Your agency should provide you with retirement counseling both before and after you submit your retirement application. Prior to submitting your application, you should be able to contact your HR office with general questions and you should be provided with a retirement estimate for a single date or a comparison of more than one retirement date, upon request. After you submit your application, you will have a specific specialist assigned to your case and you will be able to discuss your retirement application and the decisions you will be making. The only problem today is that it may be more difficult to get in touch with a retirement specialist. From 1991 (the year the number of specialists peaked) to 1998, agencies [cut almost 30 percent of their employee relations specialist positions](#). There's been a small but noticeable shift in the HR profession away from specialists and toward generalists. Many employees who hold generalist positions are limited to lower grades.

In the end, getting through the retirement process is a shared responsibility between you, your agency and the Office of Personnel Management. Here's how those responsibilities break down.

Your Responsibilities

The retirement process starts with you. You should:

- Be sure that your electronic Official Personnel Folder (known as your eOPF) contains a complete history of your federal career documented on SF-50 (Notification of Personnel Action) statements as well as other documents.
- Ask for a retirement estimate from your agency retirement specialist. Be sure to look at the information used to compute the estimate. If any of your personal information is incorrect, then the estimate will not be accurate. It's best to request your first estimate five years prior to becoming eligible for retirement. You may request additional estimates in future years as you adjust your plans. These individually prepared estimates are not the same as the automatically generated estimates that you may find on systems such as Employee Express or MyPay. The automated systems do not take into account some of the



important factors that may affect your retirement, such as whether or not the service used to compute the estimate is properly documented and whether or not it is even creditable for retirement.

- Keep your HR office informed throughout your career when you experience a life event such as a marriage, death of a family member or birth of child. On such occasions, you can make changes to your life and health insurance benefits, and you may wish to update your beneficiary designations.
- Ask questions regarding anything about your retirement that you don't understand. Common questions include: Is all of my service properly documented? Do I owe a deposit to the retirement system for any of my past federal service? What are my choices survivor benefits? What are the choices regarding continuation of my government life insurance?
- Remember, there are some questions your retirement specialist should not answer because they involve tax or financial planning decisions or are outside of the scope of their expertise. These include: Can I afford to retire? Should I pay my service credit deposit? Should I choose a survivor benefit? Should I apply for Social Security at age 62 or wait until I'm older?

Your Agency's Responsibilities

[According to OPM](#), it is your agency's responsibility to guide you through the retirement process, supplying all the information you might need. This includes the following:

- Providing accurate and reliable responses to your retirement benefits questions and concerns, including retirement estimates.
- Providing additional resources to further assist in explaining complicated retirement issues and decisions.
- Identifying employees who are within five years of retirement and encouraging them to attend a pre-retirement seminar. I would add that employees at every stage of their career, beginning with new hires, should be provided information to help them set and adjust their future retirement goals. Because of the intertwined relationship between the Federal Employees Retirement System basic benefit, Social Security retirement and the Thrift Savings Plan, employees cannot wait until five years before they retire to plan their retirement.
- Communicating new rules and laws that affect employee benefits.
- Compiling the necessary information to provide OPM with a "clean case" for processing your retirement benefit.

Office of Personnel Management

OPM's job is to process your formal retirement application once it has been filed by your agency.



- Once OPM's Retirement Operations Center in Boyers, Pa., receives your retirement application from your agency, OPM will send an acknowledgement letter that provides you with a retirement claim number. The number will begin with the letters "CSA."
- If you're interested in all the details of how OPM's retirement processing operation works, read this [detailed and informative Washington Post article](#) from earlier this year.

By [Tammy Flanagan](#)

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GRAND RE-OPENING

Join us to see the improvements and clean-up efforts
from last year's diesel fuel spill.

North Marina - Eagle Beach

Saturday, May 24

Festivities

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Program and ribbon cutting of the

Linda C. Higley Nature Trail

11 a.m.



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Sinkhole of Bureaucracy

Deep underground, federal employees process paperwork by hand in a long-outdated, inefficient system

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Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month Trivia - May 2014

1. When did the Chinese workers begin to build the Transcontinental Railroad?
 - a. 1865
 - b. 1900
 - c. 1915

2. What group helped to spur passage of the 1991 Civil Rights Act?
 - a. Chinese Americans who fled discriminated against in San Francisco's Chinatown.
 - b. Cambodian immigrants who had resettled in New England.
 - c. Filipino American workers in the Alaskan Salmon Canneries.

3. Who was names Time magazine's 1996 Man of the Year for his breakthrough in AIDS research?
 - a. David Ho
 - b. Jerry Yang
 - c. Har Gobind Khorana

4. Who became the first Asian-American woman appointed to a presidential cabinet?
 - a. Joyce Chen
 - b. Connie Chung
 - c. Elaine Chao

4. Which Asian-American entrepreneur is founder and former Yahoo CEO?
 - a. An Wang
 - b. Jerry Wang
 - c. Michael Chang

5. What was the purpose of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882?



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- a. To increase taxation of the wages of Chinese laborers.
- b. To prohibit the immigration of Chinese laborers to the U.S.
- c. To establish greater trade controls with China.

Last issue, We asked,

Who was the first African-American Nobel Peace Prize winner?

- a - Albert John Luthuli
- b - Anwar El Sadat
- c - Wole Soyinka
- d - Ralph Bunche**

Buffalo Soldier was the name given to the all-black regiments of the U.S. Army started in 1866. The oldest **Buffalo Soldier**, Mark Matthews, died at the age of 111 in 2005.

Vermont was the first state to abolish slavery in 1777. **True** or False

Last winner was – N/A

Please use this link to send your answers. To be fair we will draw names from the winners and one person will receive a prize. We will reach into the prize bin for something suitable for the winner...as long as supplies last.

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What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

[The Colorado River -- an endangered water source for the southwestern U.S.](#)

[Colorado River's New Flow Seen by Satellite \(Photo\)](#)

[Putting water to work](#)

[Colorado River Pulse Flow On the Move Again](#)

[BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ISSUES NOTICE ABOUT GLEN CANYON DAM OPERATIONS](#)

[High Country News: Fast-water paddlers versus still-water luxury boaters](#)

[Dams Not Eternal in 'DamNation'](#)

[Kayaker able to navigate part of rejuvenated Colorado Delta](#)

[Tapping multiple sources helps city meet water needs amid drought](#)

[Priorities have changed in water management](#)

[An Innovative Conservation Fund for the Colorado River](#)

[Priorities have changed in water management](#)

[Extra water for silvery minnows](#)

[Rio Grande to get extra water for endangered fish](#)

[Water release aims to help silvery minnow](#)

[NM water managers boost Rio Grande flows to encourage silvery minnow spawning](#)

[Rio Grande to begin rising soon](#)

[New director named for water resource center](#)

[Colorado's San Luis Valley Reservoir Closed for Repairs](#)

[Silvery Minnows to get more water](#)

[Water Managers Cooperate to Create Beneficial River Flows](#)

[Albuquerque Water Issues Drought Advisory](#)

[Utah water treatment experts: Education is key](#)

[Rio Grande running higher](#)

[State of River speakers to examine the 'new normal'](#)

[Spring snowstorm hits Colorado, threatens Plains](#)

[Snow totals range from dusting to a foot](#)



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[French tourists visiting Glen Canyon on deadly tour plane crash in Arizona](#)

[Erosion: A Portrait of the Southwest](#)

[NM officials: Drought won't dampen summer fun](#)

[Recreation during drought](#)

[Snowpack low in Southwest Colorado](#)

[Why Most Of The Western Half Of The US Is Completely Unsuitable For Strategic Relocation](#)

[Study: NM thirsty for new sources of water](#)

[Return to UC Today](#)



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